

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PASS AGRICULTURE

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: MRS. PETERSON'S INFORMAL MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

1. HARRY CRAFT, IN CHARGE OF NUTRITION AT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) SECRETARIAT, IS CONCERNED WITH LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUTRITION AND FOOD PRODUCTION BY WFC MEMBER NATIONS AND SUGGESTED WE RECOMMEND TO WFC THAT A ONE-PAGE MEMO BE DEVELOPED AS PART OF WFC PAPERS TO BE DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE. PETERSON AGREED TO RECOMMEND U.S. TAKE THIS ACTION, WITH U.S. TO SUBMIT DRAFT OF A SUGGESTED WFC MEMO. PROCEDURE AS TO WHETHER NUTRITION MEMO WOULD APPEAR AS U.S. CONTRIBUTION OR A WFC STAFF EFFORT WAS LEFT FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION.

2. CRAFT SAID WFC EFFORT TO MAKE NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT A MAJOR FOCUS OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IS FALTERING BECAUSE OF MEMBER NATIONS FEELING THAT TECHNICAL COMPETENCE TO IMPLEMENT NUTRITION COMPONENT IS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.

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HE IS FEARFUL THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL ASK THAT STUDIES BE CARRIED OUT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THIS STEP WILL DELAY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT CONCEPT. HE ASKED IF U.S. WOULD STATE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THAT U.S. HAS CAPABILITY TO IMPLEMENT NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS. PETERSON DELEGATION SAID PROBLEM INVOLVED PLANNING CONCEPTS--NUTRITION IMPACT STATEMENTS, NUTRITION OBJECTIVES--BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER

MANAGERIAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLAN IS AVAILABLE.

3. CRAFT ASKED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SECURE WHO ACTION TO IMPLEMENT WHO PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES-- PARTICULARLY VITAMIN A. PETERSON ASKED WFC TO PREPARE MEMO ON PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER STUDY.

4. CRAFT ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING WFC STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL NUTRITION PLANS IN SELECTIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WFC BELIEVES THREE TO FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE THRESHOLD CAPABILITY FOR SUCH A STEP. DISCUSSION COVERED THE PROBLEMS OF TARGET COUNTRY SENSITIVITY, THIRD WORLD CONCERN OVER RESTRICTING ASSISTANCE RESOURCES ON LARGE SCALE TO A FEW NATIONS, AND CONCERN THAT NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS NARROWLY BASED RATHER THAN ACCEPTED AS BROADLY BASED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. PETERSON SAID U.S. IS SYMPATHETIC, AND SHE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITHIN USG ON RETURN TO U.S. HOLMES

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